



Amended 12/6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. AM100389)

In re Application of:) Appln. No.: 10/029,840
) Confirmation No.: 5348
 XIANG-JIN MENG et al.) Group Art Unit: Unknown
) Examiner: Unassigned
 Filed: December 31, 2001) Paper No.: 6

For: AVIAN HEPATITIS E VIRUS, VACCINES AND METHODS OF
PROTECTING AGAINST AVIAN HEPATITIS-SPLENOMEGALY
SYNDROME AND MAMMALIAN HEPATITIS E

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO THE NOTICE
TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-referenced patent application in accordance with the following instructions. An Appendix is attached to this amendment to provide a separate, marked up version showing all the changes relative to the immediate, prior version of the rewritten claim(s) and the Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the initial paper copy of the Sequence Listing supplied herewith between original pages 56 and 57; and renumber pages 57 to 60 accordingly.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite Claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1 (Amended). An isolated avian hepatitis E virus having no more than about 80% nucleotide sequence identity to an Australian big liver and spleen disease virus.

2 (Amended). The avian hepatitis E virus according to Claim 1, wherein said virus has a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the enclosed substitute copy.